

Dear Name of mother you met with (cc's to Green Action, El Pueblo, state and local agencies)

I want to thank you again for meeting with me last week and for telling me your experience with having a child with birth defects. As a parent, I can only begin to understand the pain of this experience. I hope you and other parents will also work with the California Department of Public Health in sharing your concerns.

As I mentioned to you, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) committed to provide you and any resident in Kettleman City with independent technical assistance regarding birth defects.

Through this letter, I would like to share the details of how to reach Dr. Miriam Shipp, who will serve as a technical advisor about environmental health concerns. Dr. Shipp is a Spanish-speaking public health physician with many years of experience in the public health field. I have attached her professional biography for more information on her background and experience.

Here is how you can reach Dr. Shipp with your questions about birth defects or other health concerns you believe may be related to the environment:

Call 1-877-577-TASC (8272) where a bilingual recording will allow you to leave a message with your question or concern. Please make sure to leave your phone number so that you can receive a response within 48 hours excluding weekends. If your request involves something outside of Dr. Shipp's expertise, Krissy Russell-Hedstrom, US EPA's principal contact for our Technical Assistance Service for Communities (TASC) contract, will refer your request to EPA so that we can identify the best person to answer your question.

Under the TASC, Dr. Shipp can:

- be available for group and individual meetings to discuss environmental health concerns,
- make environmental health related recommendations to the community, and
- make independent recommendations to the environmental regulators and public health agencies, as well as recommendations on behalf the community.

However, Dr. Shipp cannot make diagnoses or otherwise practice medicine, nor can she conduct an independent health study. To learn more about how EPA has provided this service to support community information needs, please call the number above or visit <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/>. You can also contact Deldi Reyes, the manager of the Environmental Justice team, at (415) 972-3795.

I hope you and other concerned parents in Kettleman City take full advantage of Dr. Shipp's assistance.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld,